

'King's Men' King-Size Film Of the Demon in Politics

By Jay Carmody

They have made a corking movie out of Robert Penn Warren's Pulitzer Prize novel, "All the King's Men." Indeed, the screen version which opened last night at the Playhouse should collect a few additional awards, for Robert Rossen has made it a sizzling study of the corruptive force of political power.

Warren's demagogue turned loose on a democracy too innocent to recognize a political demon is a man to deep-freeze the heart. As movie hero-villains go, he is the best character the screen has found in a long time, and surely "All the King's Men" makes the dramatic most of him.

Willie Stark, the label the man wears, is played by Broderick Crawford and he never did a better job. Yet the full view of Willie, the exposure of his rotten human essence, is a rare work of large gifted cast which includes Mercedes McCambridge, Joanna Dru, John Ireland, and many others.

Willie, a supposed paraphrase of the late Huey Long, is the fellow most likely to be remembered among a year's film characters. His climb from backwoods buffoon to demented dictator is drama not to be missed, especially in a day when political uncertainty lies so uncomfortably upon all mankind.

The rich—actually over-rich—detail of Warren's novel is absent from the film but the simplification of the screenplay makes it a sharper X-ray of Willie Stark.

His tale begins in a small, Southern town where the heady-eyed political machine beats him in his first quest for office. The defeat merely adds one more welt to the tough, scarred surface of the huge country clown. Next time out, life and dirty politics give him a break. He becomes a community hero and a minor political idol whose veneer of idealism needs only a tiny crack for the power lust in him to come roaring through.

When a pair of State capitol slickers, newspaper columnist and a hard-wired guy show him the way, Willie is off to a ruthlessness his old machine-made enemies never conceived. If Willie's story were not rigid history, it would have a fairy tale incredibility about it.

It is, however, an old headlines account of a power-crazed politico who got the mob behind him, whipped it to an emotional frenzy, and rode this dizzy force wherever his whims led him.

Willie's whim was empire. He was willing that every man should be a king, if he could be the king of kings. He bought power with every device ever used. He built roads, improved markets, constructed schools, and the State university and an architectural model and bought it a football team Willie could be proud of. He built hospitals, established medical centers, and extended health services.

All of these on the surface were good, but the core of them was rotten with Willie's own rottenness, his mad worship of power for power's own impure sake.

In both his personal and official life he was as inhuman as his creations looked humane. Everything he created, everything he touched became corrupt, and the Playhouse picture takes a look at most of it.

On the private side of his being, Willie is shown two-thirds the wife who led him out of illiteracy, four-fifths the tough-hid girl who made him Governor and seducing the fiancée of his most patriotic and faithful friend. In his public role, he established a new high in bribery and wanton waste of State monies; to repress his enemies he established an



ON THE BLOCK—Claudette Colbert plays the leading feminine role in the comedy, "Bride for Sale," opening today at Keith's.

Where and When Current Theater Attractions and Time of Showing

Ambassador—"Miss Grant Takes Richmond": 1:45, 3:45, 5:45, 7:50 and 9:55 p.m.

Capitol—"The Gal Who Took the West": 11 a.m., 1:45, 4:30, 7:15 and 10 p.m. Stage shows: 1, 3:45, 6:30 and 9:15 p.m.

Columbia—"That Midnight Kiss": 11:35 a.m., 1:40, 4:40, 5:45, 7:50 and 9:55 p.m.

Dupont—"Monsieur Vincent": 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:35 and 9:40 p.m. Keith's—"Bride for Sale": 11:35 a.m., 1:35, 3:35, 5:40, 7:40 and 9:45 p.m.

Metropolitan—"Special Agent": 11:15 a.m., 1:50, 4:35, 7:20 and 9:55 p.m.

National—"Hamlet": 10:20 a.m., 1, 3:40, 6:20 and 9 p.m.

National—"The Fighting Man of the Plains": 11 a.m., 12:50, 2:40, 4:30, 6:19, 8:05 and 9:55 p.m.

Palace—"Pinky": 11 a.m., 1:05, 3:15, 5:25, 7:35 and 9:45 p.m.

Pix—"Down Memory Lane": 2:15, 4:55, 7:35 and 10:10 p.m.

Playhouse—"All the King's Men": 9:40 and 11:40 a.m., 1:45, 3:50, 5:50, 7:55 and 10 p.m.

Trans-Lux—"The Fallen Idol": 11:30 a.m., 1:20, 3:05, 4:55, 8, and 11:10 p.m.

Warner—"Miss Grant Takes Richmond": 11 a.m., 1, 3, 5, 7:05 and 9:10 p.m. "Always Leave Them Laughing": 11:15 p.m.

AMUSEMENTS.

FOR ONLY ONE WEEK
ACADEMY AWARD WINNER
as the
"YEAR'S BEST FOREIGN FILM"
IN ADDITION TO
9 INTERNATIONAL AWARDS
Monsieur VINCENT
starring PIERRE FRESNAY
Today Dupont TELEVISION IN OUR LOUNGE
1532 CONN. AVE. 50c THRU 5 P.M. Col 9044 Cont. Perf. 1 P.M.

AMUSEMENTS.

PREVIEW TONITE
Come Anytime After 5 P.M.
See Two Complete Features
"Fallen Idol" At 5, 8, 11 P.M.
"Holiday Inn" At 6:30, 9:30 P.M.

Here's the picture that sent "White Christmas" singing its way into your heart...

AS ONLY BING COULD BRING IT TO YOU!

Irving Berlin's
"HOLIDAY INN"
The White Christmas Picture Starring
Bing Crosby
Fred Astaire
with MARJORIE REYNOLDS • DALE ABEL
Lyrics and Music by MARK SANDRICH • IRVING BERLIN
Screen Play by Claude Brul-Strauss • Adaptation by Elmer Rice
A PARAMOUNT CHAMPION

STARTS TOMORROW—OPEN 10:45 A.M.
Trans-Lux
14th at H.N.W.—Plus Our Complete Newsreel Digest

Hollywood Diary Gene Autry One-Nighters Pay Off Well

By Sheila Graham

HOLLYWOOD. Gene Autry made \$800,000 on his last tour of 56 one-nighters in 61 days. He goes out again January 14 for 67 dittos in 71 days. His aim—\$1,000,000. It's all very stylish. The troupe travels by chartered bus; the two horses by horsecar, and Gene pilots his own plane.

Ronald Colman has a clause in his contract that he is not to receive any advertising for his appearance in the Bing Crosby picture, "Mr. Music!" This is something new and unheard of for an actor.

Celeste Holm explains why she turned down the plum "South Pacific" touring lead. "It would have meant leaving my husband and son for two years. It's different for a New York play than they could join me. But not on the road." Celeste's engagement in "The Stoops to Conquer" with Maurice Evans in New York, is for two weeks only.

Glenn McCarthy can take punishment, then come back for more. He lost every cent of the \$450,000 invested in his first picture, "The Green Promise." Now he is looking for a new movie to produce. Every one told him he would lose his shirt in the mammoth Shamrock Hotel in Houston. I hear the place is always about 80 per cent full. That's good.

Jean Parker's about-to-be-divorced husband, Curtis Grotter, says he has the finances to produce "Rebellion" in Mexico City. No, Jean won't be the star. But

AMUSEMENTS.

STARTS TODAY!
RKO KEITH'S 15TH AT G
OPEN 10:45 SUN.
ALL SHE WANTED.. WAS ONE RICH HUSBAND!

CLAUDETTE COLBERT • ROBERT YOUNG • GEORGE BRENT
BRIDE FOR SALE
with MAX BAER • GUS SCHILLING • CHARLES ARNT
Produced by JACK H. SKIRBALL • Directed by WILLIAM D. RUSSELL
Screen Play by Bruce Manning and Hal Auster
Address SPOTLIGHT ON MEXICO
A NEW THIS IS AMERICA

WE'VE GOT BERLE and BOY!
HAVE YOU GOT FUN!
STARTING WITH A SPECIAL ADVANCE SHOW TONIGHT at Warner at 11 p.m. and at Ambassador at MIDNIGHT
Last Showing Tonight "Miss Grant Takes Richmond" at Warner at 9:15 p.m. and Ambassador 9:55 p.m. • No Advance in Prices

MILTON BERLE
The Nation's No. 1 Funny-Man
Gets Funny With VIRGINIA MAYO
in WARNER BROS. New Happiness-Maker
"ALWAYS LEAVE THEM LAUGHING"
Oh, what a story everyone falls for his gag—he falls for everyone's gag!
RUTH ROMAN • BERT LAHR
LAST TIMES TODAY "Miss GRANT TAKES RICHMOND" at WARNER at 1-3-5-7-9:15 p.m. at AMBASSADOR at 1:45-3:45-5:45-9:55 p.m.
REGULAR CONTINUOUS PROFORMANCES start TOMORROW at WARNER at 10:45 a.m. at AMBASSADOR at 1 p.m.
WARNER 13th near F And AMBASSADOR

every day. The starting date is now November 29.

Lois McCallister gives 16-year-old Lois Butler her first screen kiss in "Blaze of Glory." Having studied Lon's technique with Jeanne Crain and June Haver, Lois says "I can't wait."

Denise Darcel's ex-GI ex-mate, William Shaw, makes his acting debut in "Stardust" at the Highland Playhouse. Denise came to this country as a war bride.

Joan Fontaine with Sir Charles Mendl at all the current parties (See GRAHAM, Page A-15.)

AMUSEMENTS.

LAST TIMES TODAY
2 ACTION HITZ
"SPECIAL AGENT" Deputy Marshal
Starts TOMORROW
JOHN WAYNE
Tall in the Saddle
2 POPULAR HITS BROUGHT BACK!
TARZAN TRIUMPHS
2 WEISSMULLER
FRANCES GIFFORD
METROPOLITAN 14th near 10th

AMUSEMENTS.

NATIONAL BETWEEN 13TH & 14TH
RANDOLPH SCOTT
FIGHTING MAN OF THE PLAINS
The B-36 All-Time "TARGET PEAK"

AMUSEMENTS.

Loews COLUMBIA 12 34
Starts TOMORROW Open 10:45
ERROL FLYNN • GREER GARSON • WALTER PIDGEON • ROBERT YOUNG
with JANET LEIGH
"THAT FORSYTE WOMAN" Technicolor
Ends Today • Columbia • "THAT MIDNIGHT KISS" Technicolor

Darryl F. Zanuck presents
Pinky 20
THE POIGNANT LOVE STORY OF A GIRL WHO PASSED FOR WHITE...
JEANNE CRAIN • ETHEL BARRYMORE
ETHEL WATERS • WILLIAM LUNDIGAN
Produced by DARRYL F. ZANUCK Directed by ELIA KAZAN
Starts TODAY
Loew's Palace F at 13th • Open 10:30

People are talking about M.G.M.'s
THE DOCTOR AND THE GIRL
THE SURPRISE PICTURE OF THE YEAR!
starring
GLENN FORD
CHARLES COBURN
GLORIA DE HAVEN • JANET LEIGH
with BRUCE BENNETT Screen Play by Theodore Reaves
On Stage in Person M.G.M. Recording Artist
Johnnie JOHNSTON
Star of M.G.M.'s Pictures "This Time for Keeps" and "Till the Clouds Roll By"
Starts TOMORROW OPEN 10:45
Loew's CAPITOL
Ends Today • "THE GAL WHO TOOK THE WEST" Technicolor
On Stage • GRACIE BARRIE ... Others

THE PULITZER PRIZE WINNING NOVEL BECOMES A VITAL, VERY GREAT MOTION PICTURE
If he didn't own you, he'd buy you. And if you couldn't be bought, he'd ruin you!
COLUMBIA PICTURES presents
ROBERT ROSSEN'S PRODUCTION
ALL THE KING'S MEN
Based upon the Pulitzer Prize Novel "All the King's Men" by Robert Penn Warren
with BRODERICK CRAWFORD • JOANNE DRU • JOHN IRELAND • JOHN DEREK • MERCEDES McCAMBRIDGE
Written for the Screen and Directed by ROBERT ROSSEN
STARTS TODAY
THE PLAYHOUSE 15th AND H STREETS • ST 8500
DOORS OPEN 9:15 A.M.

EVENING PARKING
40c 6 P.M. TO 12 P.M.
CAPITAL GARAGE
1320 N. Y. Ave. N.W.
Between 13th and 14th

Dial HO. 4200
Serch's
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1732 Conn. Ave. N.W.

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Complete Stock
LOOSE LEAF
and
BLANK BOOKS
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Thanksgiving Dinner
From Noon to 9:00 P.M.
\$2.25
Celery and Olives
Fresh Fruit Cup Chilled Tomato Juice
Crab Gumbo Clam Chowder
Shrimp Cocktail Consomme Claret
Young Native Turkey
Giblet Gravy, Cranberry Sauce
Mashed Potatoes Fresh Spinach
Green Peas Candied Yams
Lettuce Chiffonade with French Dressing
Brandied Orange Pie Peach Melba
Swiss or American Cheese with Salties
Rolls Coffee
Dinner Mints

O'DONNELL'S
Sea Grill
Thos. A. O'Donnell
1207-1221 E. St. N.W.